This email went out to Minnesota law enforcement agencies last week to provide a strategy to distribute crime victim rights information and resources to victims who report a crime over the phone or through a website. It was also sent out to certain community programs who assist their local agencies in developing and updating their victim information card.



|  |
| --- |
| Online Versions of Statutorily-Required Victim Notices |
| Dear law enforcement and community partners:    We are emailing you with an important resource for crime victims during the COVID-19 emergency and beyond. We know that law enforcement agencies across Minnesota are minimizing in-person contact whenever possible to curb the spread of the virus. However, agencies must still provide the statutorily required notice of victim rights to all victims even when the initial contact with the victim is not in person. This notice is critically important as it is often a victim’s only source of referral to a local victim service provider and to the Minnesota Crime Victims Reparations Program.    Now officers can safely provide the initial notice of victim rights from a distance. The Crime Victim Justice Unit (CVJU) has posted online versions of the initial notice in [English](https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ojp/help-for-crime-victims/professional-resources/Pages/victim-information-english.aspx), [Spanish](https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ojp/help-for-crime-victims/professional-resources/Pages/victim-information-spanish.aspx), [Hmong](https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ojp/help-for-crime-victims/professional-resources/Pages/victim-information-hmong.aspx), and [Somali](https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ojp/help-for-crime-victims/professional-resources/Pages/victim-information-somali.aspx) on the Minnesota Office of Justice Programs website. Agencies can copy the content of these notices and post on their own websites or they can link to the OJP webpages. Responding officers and those taking reports over the phone or online can text or email the victim with the link to the appropriate webpage along with the incident report number.    Whatever your approach, your notice must also inform all victims of the nearest crime victim assistance program or resource, and, for domestic abuse incidents, the local domestic abuse resource or shelter. This can be done by including a victim resource list alongside the victim rights notice on your own website or including that resource information in the electronic communication you send. As always, we recommend that officers document in their reports that they’ve provided the initial notice of victim rights.    For guidance on law enforcement’s statutory notification requirements, please see the information posted on the [Law Enforcement Resources](https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ojp/help-for-crime-victims/professional-resources/Pages/law-enforcement.aspx) page on the [OJP website](https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ojp/help-for-crime-victims/Pages/default.aspx). Additional crime-victim related resources and information for law enforcement agencies can also be found on that page.    Please feel free to contact the CVJU at 651-201-7310 or [cvju.ojp@state.mn.us](mailto:cvju.ojp@state.mn.us) if you have any questions or need further assistance.    Thank you for your assistance in ensuring the rights of crime victims.    Sincerely,    Suzanne Elwell  The following are the links to the individual victim rights notice pages, a general landing page with links to the four pages, and language-specific help for crime victims’ pages. Please keep in mind that local agencies are required to distribute to crime victims the contact information of local victim service providers.    **Law enforcement notice to crime victims**[English](https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ojp/help-for-crime-victims/professional-resources/Pages/victim-information-english.aspx) | [Spanish](https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ojp/help-for-crime-victims/professional-resources/Pages/victim-information-spanish.aspx) | [Somali](https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ojp/help-for-crime-victims/professional-resources/Pages/victim-information-somali.aspx) | [Hmong](https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ojp/help-for-crime-victims/professional-resources/Pages/victim-information-hmong.aspx)    **General landing page for law enforcement notice:** [Link](http://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ojp/help-for-crime-victims/professional-resources/Pages/victim-information-main.aspx)    **Help for crime victims - OJP website**[English](https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ojp/help-for-crime-victims/Pages/default.aspx) | [Spanish](https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ojp/help-for-crime-victims/Pages/Ayuda_para_victimas.aspx) | [Somali](https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ojp/help-for-crime-victims/Pages/help-for-crime-victims-somali.aspx) | [Hmong](https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ojp/help-for-crime-victims/Pages/help-for-crime-victims-hmong.aspx) |
|  |
|  |